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EXAMINER

COLBERT, ELLA

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3694

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-29, 31, 32, 34-42, and 44-48 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 26 have been amended in this communication filed 4/18/07 entered as Response After Non-Final Action.
2. The claim objections for claims 7, 8, and 42 in the prior communication of October 12, 2006 have been overcome and are hereby withdrawn. However, there are remaining claim objections as set forth here below.
3. The 35 USC 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 1, 26, and 42 is hereby withdrawn in view of the convincing arguments.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-3, 13, 23, 24, 26, 38-40, 42, and 46 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1 recites "detecting a request by a user ... for a valid charge numbers;". This claim limitation would be better recited as "detecting a request by a user ... for one of a plurality of valid charge numbers;". Claim 2, recites "... wherein the providing the ...". This claim limitation is redundant with the usage of "the". Claim 3 has a similar problem. Claim 13, recites "pre-certifying, ..., a valid charge number issuer as processor for". This line would be better recited as "pre-certifying, ..., a valid charge number issuer as the processor for". Claim 23 recites "the detecting a request comprises ...". This line would be better recited as "the detecting of a request comprises ...". Claim 24 recites "email" and claim 23 recites "electronic mail". This is inconsistent in the claim limitations because some of the claim limitations recite "electronic mail" and other claim limitations recite "email" or "e-mail". Claims 38-40 and

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46 have a similar problem. Claim 26 recites "for issuing and authorizing valid charge numbers via a electronic communications". This line should recite "for issuing and authorizing valid charge numbers via an electronic communications". Also claim 26 should have a comma after "user" and before "wherein" and after "request" and before "wherein" to replace the semi-colon (;). Claim 42 has a similar problem with the semi-colon and the "a" after "via and before "electronic communications network".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 23, 26, 31, 36, 38, 42, 44, and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "storing the plurality of valid charge numbers;". It is unclear and vague what the valid charge numbers are stored in or where they are stored.

Claim 1 also recites "provided to and routed by ...". It is unclear and vague what is being "provided to" or who the valid charge numbers are being provided to". Do Applicants' mean "a device" or "a user" or "a human being"?

Claims 26 and 42 have a similar problem.

Claim 23 recites "establishing an electronic mail account that enables communication ...". The usage of the term "enables" is not a positive recitation in the claim language. A positive claim recitation would be "establishing an electronic mail

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account that includes communication ...". Claims 26, 31, 38, 42, and 45 have a similar problem.

Claim 36 recites "the storage device storing ... charge number database;". This claim limitation is unclear and vague. Do Applicants' mean "the storage device storing ... charge number in a database" or "the storage device storing ... charge number in an expired charge number database"?

Claim 44 has a similar problem.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "a user" in line 7 and again in line 8. The second "a user" should be changed to "the user". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 2-5, 7-25, 27-29, 31, 32, 34-41, and 44-48 are also rejected because of their dependency from a rejected base claim.

Conclusion

6. Once the objections and 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejections have been overcome and if after an updated search there has not been any new art found to reject the claims the application will be passed to issue.

Inquiries


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 5:30AM-3:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

June 25, 2007


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER